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taken by the Government to reduce the prices of yarn in accordance with the resolution recently passed by the Madras Handloom Committee requesting for reduction of yarn prices?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" This Government have addressed the Government of India to relate the price of yarn more nearly to the price of cotton, and to equalise as far as possible the price of yarn for handlooms and that for composite mills. The Government of India have justified their method of relating the price of yarn to the price of cotton, which follows the formula evolved by the Tariff Commission. To equalise price, they have levied a cess on mill cloth. I, however, submit that the question of the regulation of the price of yarn is not a live issue now in view of decontrol."

SRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH :—" In view of the growing unemployment resulting in utter starvation due to the accumulation of handloom cloth, will the Government be pleased to take steps to supply yarn at prices at which the mills are getting at the spindle point and also introduce small-scale spinning mills for the manufacture and supply of yarn to handlooms? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have said that there is decontrol of the price and distribution of yarn. I do not know how the hon. Member wants the Government to help the industry."

Elections to Pamarru Panchayat Board, Gudivada.

* 972 *Q.*—SRI G. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the elections to the major panchayats of Pamarru, Gudivada, were stayed by Government. and if so, under what circumstances;

(*b*) who gave the petition for postponement of the elections and or, what date; and

(*c*) whether the petition was referred to the local officials for remarks; and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes, on a representation from some residents that the electoral roll was not published when election proceedings were commenced and that the electoral roll itself was defective.

" (*b*) Four residents of the Pamarru Panchayat sent a petition, dated 5th June 1953, in the matter.

" (*c*) Yes, on 9th June 1953."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" May I know whether the petition was sent by post or given in person? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I do not remember whether the petition was sent by post or presented in person.

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A report on the petition was called for. The report says that the allegations are incorrect. The Government are proposing to vacate the stay order and hold elections."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Was the opinion of the Collector called for with regard to the defective nature or otherwise of the electoral roll? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The report referred to is the report from the Regional Inspector who is in charge of the election."

SRI K. SUBBA REDDI :—" ఎన్ని గ్రామాలనుంచి representation లు వచ్చినా వినని మంత్రిగారు ఈ ఒక్క గ్రామం విషయమై ఎట్లా విన్నారండి? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" When the allegations are serious, we take notice of them and make enquiries."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" May I know whether any specific period is mentioned in the stay order and, if so, what it is? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The period need not be fixed."

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" May I know how many people signed the petition and what prompted the Hon. Minister to take such prompt action in this particular matter? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Four residents of the Pamarru Panchayat signed the petition. The allegations are that the electoral roll was not published when election proceedings were commenced and that the electoral roll itself was defective. If the allegations were true, the election itself would have become invalid."

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—" Is it not a fact that the Government are issuing such orders wherever it is convenient for their followers without going into the merits of the case? It is clear from the reply of the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I do not think there is any truth in the insinuation."

SRI G. YELLAMANDA REDDI :—" How is it that the Government fixed the date for the election without scrutinizing whether the electoral roll was correct or not? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" If the election date is fixed without scrutinizing the correctness of the electoral roll, the election will become invalid."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government propose to conduct the election early? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" All pending elections will be completed within two months."

Sri G. RAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the petitioners are related to the Hon. Minister? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I have no relatives in that district."

Sri ALLURI VENKATARAMARAJU :—" అయ్యా, మేజరు పంచాయతీ ఎన్నికలకు ఎంతో దీర్ఘకాలం ఆలస్యమైన విషయం ప్రభుత్వం గుర్తించింది. ఉదాహరణకు తూర్పు గోదావరి జిల్లా రాలిగ్రామ పంచాయతీ విషయం కూడా ఇందులో ఉంది ? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" There are some major panchayats in every district. Elections to major panchayats were conducted by secret ballot and they were taken up only at a late stage."

Sri T. LAKSHMINARAYANA REDDI :—" క్రొత్త పంచాయతీలకు ఎప్పుడు ఎన్నికలు జరుపుతారండి ? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" That is under the consideration of the Government."

Opening of new elementary schools.

* 973 *Q.*—Sri N. SIVARAMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have laid down any conditions to be satisfied for the opening of a Board Elementary School in any village in general and if so, what they are; and

(*b*) whether there is any restriction saying that no such school can be opened in villages with less than 500 population?

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The conditions laid down for the opening and recognition of aided elementary schools are followed in regard to Board Elementary Schools also. These conditions are given in the rules for the grant of recognition and aid to elementary schools under private managements. A copy of the rules is available in the Library of the Secretariat of the Madras Legislature for reference.

" (*b*) No. The policy of the Government is to open schools with a population of 500 and above in the first instance. Opening of schools in places with a population of less than 500 is also considered, provided there are sufficient number of school-age children in the village and provided further that there are no schools too close by to which they can conveniently go."

Sri N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" Due to the insistence on the provision of a pukka building by the authorities, many villages are denied the facility of a school. Will the Government be pleased to relax this condition? "

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" With regard to elementary schools, a very liberal policy is followed. As a matter of fact, about three days ago I declared open a small thatched shed for an elementary school."